

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 15771 011150Z

44

ACTION EB-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03

CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 INT-08 DRC-01

/121 W

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R 011009Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA TJMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

SECSTATE WASHDC 7248

UNCLAS BANGKOK 15771

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, LA

SUBJ: LUMBER MARKET CONDITIONS

REF : A. VIENTIANE 6828

B. SINGAPORE 3673

1. THAILAND IMPORTED LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS VALUED AT ABOUT US\$5 MILLION IN 1973, UP FRACTIONALLY FROM 1972 LEVEL. OF THIS TOTAL, 71 PERCENT, MOSTLY LOGS FOR DOMESTIC USE, CAME FROM LAOS; REMAINDER CAME FROM MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE. RE-EXPORTS REPORTED TO BE NEGLIGIBLE.

2. THAILAND EXPORTED LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS VALUED AT ABOUT US\$54 MILLION IN 1973, NEARLY DOUBLE THE 1972 TOTAL, MOSTLY TO THE U.S., JAPAN, TAIWAN, AND AUSTRALIA.

3. RTG IN JULY 1973 IMPOSED BAN ON EXPORT OF LOGS LARGER THAN 6.5 INCHES IN DIAMETER, MOTIVE WAS TO ENCOURAGE EXPORT OF FINISHED AND SEMI-FINISHED PRODUCTS AT HIGHER UNIT VALUES.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 15771 011150Z

4. DOMESTIC LUMBER MARKET HAS BEEN IN SLUMP IN RECENT MONTHS AS RESULT (1) LESSENER DEMAND AND (2) INCREASED PRODUCTION PRICES FLOWING FROM INCREASE IN POL COSTS. LUMBER INVENTORIES ARE HIGH, AND PRICES HAVE REPORTEDLY DECLINED AVERAGE OF ABOUT 10 PERCENT FROM 1973 LEVELS. DOMESTIC PLYWOOD DEMAND REPORTEDLY DOWN 15 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR.

5. SOME TRADE SOURCES REPORT EXPORT LUMBER PRICES DOWN AS MUCH AS 30 PERCENT FROM 1973 LEVELS, AND RTG'S FOREST INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION REPORTS ITS SALES TO TRADERS DOWN IN PAST TWO MONTHS AS RESULT CASH FLOW PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM TIGHT MONEY MARKET HERE. PLYWOOD EXPORTS SAID DOWN 40 PERCENT FROM 1973 AS RESULT (1) INCREASED COMPETITION AND (2) HIGHER SHIPPING COSTS.
MASTERS

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Disposition History: n/a
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